

In presenting the views of the Higher Criticism, as far as possible consistent with brevity, reasons will be given for their opinions. The man Paul after numerous wanderings, probably suffered martyrdom at Rome about 64 C. E. No information as to when he can be found outside of the epistles and the Acts of the Apostles. So say most Catholic and Protestant scholars down to the beginning of the nineteenth century. Down to the late full credit was given to the epistles and Acts. Here we enter a series of criticisms. The epistles of Paul first came under attack by the Hebrews first came under attack by the Romans, Ephesians, Galatians. Then came Timothy and Titus. Here F. C. Van Baur gave the first blow to the pastoral epistles. Thessalonians and Corinthians. This Prof. Baur declared a list of 24 spurious except Galatians, Corinthians and Romans, which left in doubt. Following this, the whole body of Acts was attacked and declared spurious. These conclusions were accepted as correct by the Germans, France, Holland, England. Nor did these great thinkers and learned men change their opinions in the slightest. In the face of all this some, of very little capacity, especially in this country, continue to assert that the effect of the Higher Criticism is dying out, and so the little clerical hand continues to play on the strings of Paul and the Acts. We must remember that the Acts as we now have it, is but a small part of the original collection, for the Acts of the Apostles were originally very numerous; all but the present ones failed to get into the canon. While no one positively knows who was the author of the present Acts, it is generally believed to be Luke. Even Paul himself did not escape the criticism. When and where he was born no one knows, nor his life and labors any better authenticated. The critics having declared the fourteen letters and the Acts spurious, there is no evidence that such a man as Paul ever lived; but the critics think some such a man must have lived during the first century, otherwise, tradition would not have given material out of which the Paul of the N. T. was made, i. e. they think there must have been some foundation for the stories of the fourteen epistles; but the critics insist that the real Paul left no writings; that the fourteen epistles are the work of a school which flourished much later than the time of Paul. However, this may be, they assert unqualifiedly that the fourteen epistles and the Acts are spurious. The Tubingen school say the figurative expressions of Paul relating to Christ, have been by the writers of the epistles and Acts, converted into fact. According to the epistles, the educated class at Athens and elsewhere treated Paul's doctrines with contempt. The old school of critics were disposed to treat the four great epistles of Paul as quasi genuine.

The new criticism, headed by A. D. Lomon of Amsterdam, while crediting the existence of Paul, as a real man, deny in toto, the alleged authorship of all of the fourteen epistles. Following Lomon, Steck of Bern, with Volter and Van Mane have written exhaustive treatises on this matter, wherein they show, both forms, internal and external evidence that Paul did not write any of the fourteen epistles. The Acts, ascribed to the apostles, being the only support of the Pauline epistles, have been treated in full by the critics, who say "We cannot regard the contents of Acts, viewed as a whole, and on their own merits, as a true and credible first-hand narrative of what had actually occurred. The book bears, in part, a legendary historical, in part an edifying and apologetical character." "We cannot fail to recognize that older authorities have been used in its composition. These older authorities are what the critics call, Acts of Paul and Acts of Peter. The first was a mere sketch of the life of Paul woven in to fill interstices; while in the latter, the writer, or writers, often uses the language ascribed to the author, the pronouns I and we; frequently transposing supplementing and abridging what he, or they, found in others."

The weight of modern criticism, names Luke of the third gospel, as the author of Acts. The critics conclude that he flourished about the second quarter of the second century.

It will be remembered that the church maintained that he belonged to the apostolic age, this, it will be seen, was necessary to make him a contemporary with Christ; but this claim is all false, say the critics; which, it will be seen, deprives his writings of historical value, i. e. they are not history.

The critics further say, we can give no credit to these writings which have come down through the hearsay of one or many sources. In this they follow, as they should, the well settled rules of evidence. The critics further say, the latest criticism has learned that none of the fourteen epistles come from Paul, "neither fourteen, nor thirteen, nor nine or ten, nor seven or

eight, nor yet, even the four, so long universally regarded as unassailable." "They are all, without distinction pseudopigrapha" (all having false names ascribed to them) Thus the critics, by the use of this long word, avoid using the plain English word "forgery;" but the meaning is the same.

It will be remembered by those who have read my "Genesis to Revelation," that every writing in the N. T. falls within the definition of this word, pseudopigrapha.

The higher criticism says, "The history of criticism, as early as 1520 clearly pointed in this direction." "No distinction," say they, "can any longer be allowed between principal epistles and minor, as deturo Pauline ones; the separation is purely arbitrary with no foundation in the nature of things here dealt with." "The entire ground," say they, "including the gospel of Mark, bear obvious marks of a certain unity of having originated in one circle, at one time, in one environment; but not unity of authorship; no separation of these writings can be made; all must be condensed; all differ in language, in style, in religion and ethical contents."

The critics further say, "Tradition does not assert the Pauline origin of the epistles; both the internal and the external evidence is weak, all point to one conclusion, that they are not the work of Paul. The fourteen epistles, on their face, seem to be epistles, but this is not their character; they are not letters originally intended for definite persons, despatched to these, and afterwards, by publication, made the common property of all." "On the contrary they were, from the first, treatises for instruction, and especially for edification, written in the form of letters in a tone of authority, as from the pen of Paul and other men of note, who belonged to his entourage" (his circle). "The object was to make it appear that these persons (writers) were living in the apostolic age; though in point of fact they belonged to a later generation." "These epistles gave themselves out as voices from the past intended to be read in the congregations to exert as wide an influence as possible." "In all these epistles Paul is not a contemporary, but a figure in the past. He is the object, or point of their zeal."

These fourteen epistles and the Acts having been written long after the event described they are non-historical; say the critics, "and the beliefs founded on them must be set aside, for they could give no true history of Paul or his acts." The criticism concludes by saying, "We possess no epistles of Paul; the writings which bear his name are pseudopigrapha. "Still less," say they, "does the Acts of the Apostles give us a correct historical narrative of Paul's career." The critics maintain that Paul was a wandering Jew, who, being refused by a Jewess of high repute, turned on his people and spent his life as a wandering preacher; but of the details of his life we have no knowledge. What afterwards became Paulineism, the theology of Paul, was not yet. Still less does it ever transpire that Paul was a writer of epistles of any importance; least of all, of epistles so extensive and weighty as those now met with in the canon. Mr. E. Johnson, the writer of "Antiqua Mater" (1887) maintains that Paul was a mere fiction. The critics while disagreeing with him, assert that Legend has made itself master of the person of Paul; that the fourteen epistles are the work of a later school of writers, who often personate Paul by the use of the pronouns I and we.

In order to bring the reader more directly in contact with the Higher Criticism I have felt constrained to use the words of the critics to a greater extent than I otherwise should have done; thus giving more force to the article. But I presume the readers like, myself, will regret that the critics did not always present their views in more clear and concise terms.

In conclusion, I feel bound to say, it is a pity that a system so broadcast as Christianity could not have had a foundation, other than pseudopigrapha (forgery) on which to rest; but its foundation is in harmony with the life of the church, and the forgery of all of the N. T. writings, is but the least of all the crimes which for some fourteen hundred years, the priesthood has perpetrated on the human race, all in the name of their trinities, their Bible and the upbuilding and support of their church.

All of the pagan nations promised salvation to their votaries on performance of good works, while it was left to Christianity to stand alone and offer eternal happiness in exchange for faith alone, a belief in the unbelievable, the belief that a virgin gave birth to a son, whose father was the deus primus of Christianity, and who was also the deus primus himself in human flesh and form. The absurd feeding on the ridiculous.

Alameda California.

JOSHUA T. SMALL
A Friend of the Blade is Indicted by the U. S. Government For Doing His Duty as a Good Man.

Provincetown, Mass., April 5, 1904.
Friend Moore:
Please find the \$1 to pay for another year for the Blade.

You will see, by enclosure, the trouble I have gotten into with the United States postal authority. Evidently a post office inspector can find "obscenity" in almost any kind of a document, now that he has discovered it in this.

Yours truly,
J. T. SMALL.

The clipping is from the Boston Traveler of March 19, 1904. It has a picture of Miss Cook showing her to be a pretty woman and one of Mrs. Small showing him to be a very handsome and intellectual looking man.

The article is as follows:
MISS LOUISE COOK,
Natick School Teacher Sues Provincetown Banker for \$20,000.

New Bedford, March 19.—Joshua T. Small of Provincetown appeared before United States Commissioner Goodspeed in the United States Court today charged with sending an obscene letter through the mails. He waived examination and was held in \$500 for the next session of the United States grand jury at Boston.

Bail was fixed at \$500 and Mr Small was released upon his own recognizance. Mr. Small left for Boston soon after he was arraigned.

The letter in question is the one which has been filed in the pleading of Miss Louise Cook of Natick in her suit against Mr. Small for \$20,000 for slander. This letter, Mr. Small says is the only one he ever wrote to Natick and Mr. Small admits that he wrote the letter to Superintendent of Schools Barbour of Natick.

Miss Cook Sues
Miss Louise Cook of Natick has brought suit for \$20,000 against Joshua T. Small, a baker, of Provincetown. The case will soon be tried in the Middlesex County Court. Miss Cook was for some time a teacher in the public school of Natick, and those who know her intimately and pose as experts on such matters, declare that she is not guilty of the cruel statements that are alleged to have been made against her are untrue.

Scarcely 25 years old, and very pretty, Miss Cook has long enjoyed the esteem of the best homes at Natick and parents regarded it as a high favor that their children should be able to receive instruction from the hands of one so charming and accomplished as Miss Cook.

The Small Letter
The papers in the case, which have just been filed with the clerk of courts, asserts that Miss Cook was deprived of her position as teacher by a letter alleged to have been sent by Mr. Small, and which is enclosed with the papers for the suit. It was written Jan. 9, 1903, and is addressed to Albert Barbour, Superintendent of Natick Schools. It reads:

"As your name is signed to the list of teachers' names in the public schools of Natick, permit me to thank you for replying so promptly to the letter I sent the chairman of the board of selectmen of the town. After getting the note from you some time ago, telling me that Louise M. Cook was a teacher in one of your schools, I was anxious to get the names of all your teachers that I might send them copies of the Baltimore American containing my letter in relation to her that was printed at the time she was caught with Pierce in Baltimore, after living with him for several months, during which time she aided him in passing forged checks."

"I will now give you another chapter in her history; then you can judge for yourself if you think her a proper person to teach in your schools. After being released from Baltimore prison, she returned to this town, reaching here some time in February. She went at once to her grandmother's house."

"The old lady died in April, and after that Miss Cook showed herself in her true color to the people of this town. She remained in her grandmother's house for several months and during that time she entertained many men, both single and married, day and night, and was so open in her conduct that all the neighbors were cognizant with what was taking place."

"I remember one instance when a married man came from Boston or vicinity and stayed with her day and night from Friday until the following Monday."

"In the latter part of the fall she went away from Provincetown, and after being gone several weeks returned and stayed a few days, at which time she told that she had obtained a situation as teacher, but was careful not to say where."

"I have been informed that a young Episcopal minister at Quincy recommended her to your people as worthy of a position, but do not know that the rumor has any foundation in fact."

I should hardly think he would have been willing to foist a teacher on you that had been dropped from the schools of this town on account of scandalous conduct.

"If you care to have a corroborative evidence of what I have written you regarding her life here, you can easily secure it by making a visit here or by corresponding with M. N. Gifford, president of our national bank, or with Miss Sara Kavanaugh or Miss Katharine McIntyre, teachers in our public schools. D. W. Pierce is now in the Worcester prison for uttering and passing forged checks."

"Had Miss Cook received her just deserts she would be with him, for there is no doubt she aided and abetted him in his crime from the time he left Provincetown until he was apprehended in Baltimore. These checks were passed in the town of Clinton, I believe. Pierce's term expires next June."

JOSHUA T. SMALL.
Mr. Small is proprietor of a large bakery at Provincetown.

ROME CONGRESS FUND

It is the desire that Dr. J. B. Wilson represent American Freethought at the World's Congress of Freethinkers to be held in Rome, Italy, next September. Dr. Wilson is president of the National Liberal Party and is eminently qualified to participate in the deliberations at the Congress. On his return from Rome the Doctor will write a book embracing his experience and proceedings of the Congress, and it is needless to speak of the Doctor's versatility and ability to write such a book.

The price of the book will be one dollar, and as the expense will be very heavy it is hoped that all who are able will subscribe for as many books as possible.

All money received is deposited in the Central Trust and Safe Deposit Company, of Cincinnati, and will be acknowledged through the Blade.

Contributions and subscriptions (with and without money) will be received by the Secretary of the National Liberal Party. Address: MORRIS SACHS, Atlas Bank Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

Condition of Fund.
Anna B. Logue, Chicago, 1 pd; Emily D. Jones, East Lynne, Mo., 1 pd; M. V. Wright, Houston, Tex., 2 pd; Wm. Milligan, Blue, Ariz., 1 pd; R. C. King, Carlisle, Ky., pd; Jno. E. Heymen, Carlisle, Ky., pd; Jabez Trathen, Chesley, Ky., 1 pd; Chas. Fink, Arroyo Grande, Calif., 2 paid for but already subscribed; W. P. Baldwin, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1; Geo. L. Case, 599 Commerce Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio, 1.

THE PROSPEROUS SOUTHWEST.
The March issue of the Coming Country, issued by the Passenger Department of the M. K. & T. Ry. St. Louis, gives a very complete description of the present day conditions and the many advantages that the Southwest offers to the homeseeker and investor. The Government 1903 crop and live stock reports show that the Southwest is in a very prosperous and flourishing condition. The paper is very attractive illustrated with farm and live-stock scenes. If you are contemplating a change and desire reliable information relative to the Great Southwest, secure a copy by addressing George Morton, G. P. & T. A., M. K. & T. Ry., ST. LOUIS, MO.


Madison, Ga.—Find enclosed \$1 to help the Blade out smoothly.—A. A. BELL.

LEXINGTON & EASTERN RAILWAY
Eastbound.
Main Line. No. 2. No. 4.
Lve. Lexington ... 2:25 pm 7:45 am
Lve. Winchester ... 3:10 pm 8:25 am
Lve. B'tyville Jnc. ... 5:11 pm 10:29 am
Arr. O. & K. Junc. ... 6:11 pm 11:26 am
Arr. Jackson ... 6:15 pm 11:30 am
O. & K. Branch. No. 33. No. 21.
Lve. Jackson ... 3:30 pm 11:20 am
Lve. O. & K. Junc. ... 3:35 pm 11:25 am
Arr. Heleclawa ... 5:15 pm 12:25 am
Arr. Cannel City ... 5:45 pm 12:45 pm
Westbound.
O. & K. Branch. No. 34. No. 22.
Lve. Cannel City ... 7:15 am 1:05 pm
Lve. Heleclawa ... 7:41 am 1:22 pm
Arr. O. & K. Junc. ... 9:25 am 2:30 pm
Arr. Jackson ... 9:30 am 2:35 pm
Main Line. No. 1. No. 3.
Lve. Jackson ... 6:25 am 2:25 pm
Arr. O. & K. Junc. ... 9:25 am 2:30 pm
Arr. B'tyville Jnc. ... 7:26 am 3:26 pm
Arr. Winchester ... 9:22 am 5:20 pm

ARKANSAS TEXAS LOUISIANA
An ideal country for cheap homes. Land at \$5.00, \$10.00, 15.00 per acre; grows corn, cotton, wheat, oats, grasses, fruits and vegetables. Stock ranges 10 months in the year. Southwest Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas are full of opportunities. The climate is mild, the soil is rich, the lands are cheap. Low Home-Seekers' rates—about half fare—via the Cotton Belt twice a month—first and third Tuesdays. For descriptive literature, maps and excursion rates, write to, L. O. SCHAEFNER, T. P. A., Cotton Belt, Cincinnati, Ohio.

CHRONIC INVALIDS
Many discouraged invalids can be cured by proper treatment. State your case by letter to
DR. ENGLEHART, SPECIALIST
MOUNT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN.
Over fifty years practice

A PENNY
Invested in a Postal Card may be the means of saving you considerable money on your tickets
TO THE
WEST AND NORTH-WEST


Will have on sale daily until April 30th exceptionally low colonist rates to the above territory.

HOME SEEKERS
Tickets will also be sold on the first and third Tuesdays of each month up to April, 1904, to points in the
WEST AND SOUTH-WEST


Full Information as to Rates, Time of Trains, etc., can be obtained by addressing
W. E. SMITH, D. G. EDWARDS, Trav. Pass. Agt. Pass. Traf. Mgr. Cincinnati, O.

KOREA GINSENG NURSERY,
V. M. Doolin, Prop.
SEED FOR PLANTING A SPECIALTY.
—Office and Nursery at—
ETNA, Pulaski County, KY.

SEVEN REASONS WHY.
You should order of Wettstein: 1. My experience as a Jeweler and Diamond Merchant. 2. My established skill as a Watchmaker and Designer. 3. My artistic qualifications in selecting latest and finest goods. 4. My proximity to Chicago markets where I select what you order from largest stocks, fresh and new. 5. Because I do not carry stock to get old and lose money on, and no dead book accounts. 6. Because I buy and sell for cash only, obtain best discounts and therefore need not add big profits to cover big losses. 7. Because I lead in low prices and the dealer who leads deserves your favors. Correspond with me and obtain my prices and tract, "Theism in the Crucible," free. Permanent now at No. 110 N. Kensington avenue, LaGrange, Cook county, Ill.
OTTO WETTSTEIN

Lowest Rates Ever Made
TO THE
South-West
—VIA—
The Rock Island-Frisco System

Are you interested? If so get ready and take advantage of the lowest rates ever made to
ARKANSAS, TEXAS AND INDIAN and OKLAHOMA TERRITORIES.
Tickets on sale from Memphis, St. Louis and Chicago February 16th, March 1st, and 15th, and April 5th, and 9th.
Call on your nearest agent or address
H. I. McGUIRE, D. P. A., Cincinnati, Ohio.

THE BEST LINE TO CHICAGO VIA CINCINNATI

MONON ROUTE
Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville Railway
ONLY LINE TO THE FAMOUS HEALTH RESORTS
